

**Minutes of the Mt. Vernon – Black Township
Parks and Recreation Board Meeting
Wednesday, July 18th, 2007**

The Mt. Vernon – Black Township Parks and Recreation Department Board held its monthly meeting on Wednesday, July 18th, 2007, at the Kiwanis Senior Citizen Center at 6:00 p.m. attending the meeting was: Parks Board President – Ron Bennett, Members – Linc Baro and Synda Waters, Parks Director John Tate and Park Board Secretary- Debra Scott.

Members not present: Kay Cox.

Visitor's attending the meeting was: Stacey Beeson, Tiffany Eisenhut, Jay Ransford, and Bob Stemple.

The motion to authorize payment of claims was made by Synda Waters and seconded by Linc Baro. Motion Carried.

The motion to approve the minutes as written or corrected from the June 20th, 2007, meeting was made by Synda Waters and seconded by Ron Bennett. Motion Carried.

The motion to approve the balance of accounts to be entered into the minutes subject to audit for July 18th, 2007, was made by Synda Waters and seconded by Linc Baro. Motion carried.

Mr. Ron Bennett suggested letting the visitors speak before the Parks Board Meeting began. Stacey Beeson stated she has a son who plays Mt. Vernon Youth Baseball, and she has concerns with several issues.

1. Ball Tournament- Ms. Beeson stated last weekend the M.V.Y.B. hosted a baseball tournament at Brittlebank Park; each team paid an entry fee of \$250.00 to play in the tournament, upon arriving at the baseball field the cars were charged \$8.00 a car load which the parents viewed this as a parking fee. Bob Stemple is the President of the M.V.Y.B. association and he stated this \$8.00 fee was an admission fee; and the reason for hosting the ballgame tournament was to raise money for the M.V.Y.B. organization.
2. Lack of Communication- Ms. Beeson stated the ball tournament was not advertised in the local newspaper nor did any of the coaches tell the parents that M.V.Y.B. was hosting a tournament. Ms. Beeson stated that there is no communication between the M.V.Y.B. association Board and the parents of the children that are involved in the program.
3. M.V.Y.B. Board meetings- Ms. Beeson states parents are not informed when meetings take place; she would like access to minutes, treasures reports and anything pertaining to M.V.Y.B. Ms. Beeson asks who holds the organization accountable?

Several other issues were discussed and after a lengthy discussion the M.V.Y.B. President agreed with Ms. Beeson that there is always room for improvement and the organization will work on the communication problems. Mr. John Tate offered MVYB a link on the City website in hopes that this would help with the communication situation. Mr. Ron Bennett stated the MVYB agreement is up for renewal in October, and at this time both parties will see if any changes need to be made. In the contract it stated that a Parks and Recreation employee or a Board member will attend the M.V.Y.B. Board meetings to allow for all programs to work together and to open up the communication lines.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Background Checks- Mr. Tate stated the school system subscribes to in.gov and are charged a \$50.00 fee yearly. This fee is for having access to the website. The school is not charged for each background check they run. Mr. Tate did find out that the parks department will be charged \$15.00 per background check they run. Mr. Tate stated he was told to contact the State Police / Commander Dennis Marshall to see if he could help out the department, to possibly waive the \$15 fee. Mr. Ron Bennett stated he would contact Greg Oeth (State Police) to see if he could provide any further information on the background checks. The issue was tabled until the next Board meeting.
2. Take Me Fishing and PCCF Grants- Mr. Tate stated the department had been accepting registration forms for the Fishing program. Only a few kids had signed up to date, so the program was pushed back one more week to allow more kids to sign-up.
3. 2008 Budget- Mr. Tate stated the budget hearings went well. Mr. Tate did state he made a few adjustments after the last board meeting, due to the minimum wage increases over the next three years.
4. Sherburne Park- Board Member Kay Cox wanted new swings at Sherburne Park as stated at last months meeting. Mr. Tate stated the swings have been ordered and that WSI will be incurring the cost for the new swing sets.

NEW BUSINESS

1. M.V.Y.B. - Mr. Tate handed each Board Member a copy of the lease/contract, between The Mt. Vernon Black Township Park & Recreation Department and The Mt. Vernon Youth Baseball. This contract is up for review in October of this year, 2007. After reviewing the contract, Mrs. Synda Waters stated that one

member from the Parks Department needs to be present at the M.V.Y.B. board meetings. After discussing the issue, Mr. Linc Baro asked if the M.V.Y.B. organization has by-laws. The board was unaware of any such by-laws. Mrs. Synda Waters stated the names of the M.V.Y.B. Board Members need to have their names posted on the web-site. Mr. Tate stated this subject will be discussed further at the next Board meeting.

2. Fall Programs- Mr. Tate handed the Board a list of the up coming programs the department will be offering this fall. The list included Fall Softball (Men's, Women's, and Coed leagues) Youth Soccer, Youth Jr. Tackle Football (3rd & 4th grade) Youth Cub Football (4th, 5th, & 6th) Youth Flag Football (K-2nd grade) Adult Flag Football and Youth Cheerleading. Mr. Tate stated the Cub Football has been turned over to the Parks & Recreation Department and it will be played at the Mt. Vernon Jr. High School's Soccer Field, as well as the 3rd & 4th grades Jr. Tackle Football. Mr. Tate stated the football program will have an advisory committee that will have the authority to place the 4th graders in the appropriate league. This will be decided on the child's skill level, size, and equal numbers to form equal teams. The advisory committee is as follows: Coach Paul Maier, Trent VanHaaften, Adam Jines, and John Tate.

Motion was made to adjourn by Linc Baro and seconded by Synda Waters.

Motion Carried.

Meeting Adjourned

John Tate, Parks Director

Ron Bennett, Board President

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held at 6:00 p.m., Wednesday, August 15th, 2007, at the Senior Citizen Center.